

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 489

By Gillespie

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Harry Walker Wellford of Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Harry Walker Wellford, an exemplary gentleman and consummate professional who worked assiduously as a longtime federal district and appellate court judge; and

WHEREAS, born on August 6, 1924, Harry Wellford attended Snowden Elementary School and Central High School; he joined the V-12 Navy College Training Program and attended college during World War II; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Midshipman's School, Mr. Wellford shipped out to the Pacific Theater, where he experienced the kamikaze attacks on the Naval fleet off Okinawa and participated in a destroyer raid; following the end of the war, he graduated from Washington and Lee University and obtained his law degree from Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, Harry Wellford began his career as a lawyer and went on to become a federal judge, serving along the way as campaign manager for Winfield Dunn, who in 1970 became the first Republican elected governor in the State in sixty years; and

WHEREAS, a community leader, Mr. Wellford was a member of the Memphis Community Relations Committee and became the leader of the then-nascent Republican Party in Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his work, Harry Wellford enjoyed a host of other hobbies, including tennis and golf; he won the forty-five and over State championship in tennis and many local and regional tournaments in the fifty-five and over category; and

WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Mr. Wellford was a lifelong member of Idlewild Presbyterian Church, where he served as a deacon, elder, and clerk of the session, a

representative of the Memphis Synod of the Presbytery, the chair of the budget committee, and the chair of the recreational committee; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of sixty-three years, Katherine, who he lovingly called his "Katherine the Great"; they enjoyed periodic excursions to Europe, visiting with family, and doting on their grandchildren together until the time of her passing on Christmas Eve 2014; and

WHEREAS, Harry Wellford will be sorely missed but fondly remembered by his children, Harry "Hal" (Amanda) Wellford, Jr., Beasley Wellford, Buckner Wellford, Jennifer Wellford Sink, Kate Wellford Gould, and Allison (Tommy) Parker; a host of grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and sisters, Julia Wellford (Ray) Allen and Mary Wellford (Bill) Ford; and

WHEREAS, he is further survived by his special friend, Peggy Jemison Bodine; cousin by marriage, Bob Turner; and friend David Howard; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by his sister, Roberta Wellford West; and

WHEREAS, Harry Wellford leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Harry Walker Wellford, reflecting fondly upon his

impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Wellford.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.